

Working in partnership with  
the citizens of Henrico County  
to create the conditions for  
health

## Public Health Bytes

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### PANDEMIC ALERT PHASE: 3

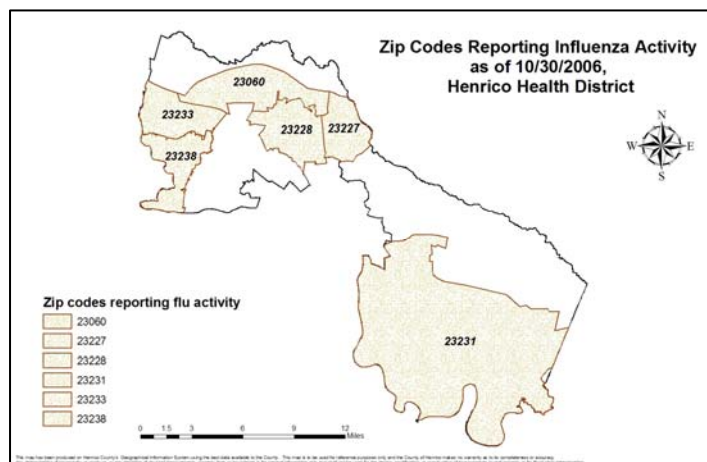
#### **Communicable Diseases Update: Seasonal Influenza**

**Update-** To date, seven cases of influenza (5A, 2B) have been reported in Henrico County from patients in six different zip codes, with 23228 reporting two cases. Please continue to report the number of lab confirmed cases of influenza to the health department weekly on an Epi-1 form (fax to 804-501-4232). If available, report the type of influenza, as well as a tally of the patient's zip codes, and the time frame. **Shigellosis-** Chesterfield Health District has been investigating an outbreak of shigella at two elementary schools since early October. To date, seven laboratory-confirmed and 24 suspected cases have been identified. No cases of shigellosis have been identified in Henrico at present. As you know, shigella is highly infectious and suspected cases should be reported to the health department by phone (804-501-

5216) or fax. **Vaccine Preventable Diseases – Mumps** - Henrico Health District has investigated 1 suspect and 3 probable cases of mumps this month. As has been reported in the media, confirmed and probable cases are being investigated throughout Virginia, including cases on college campuses. Updated lab testing and isolation information is available at:

[www.publichealthbytes.org](http://www.publichealthbytes.org) under "Mumps Resources." Note that the CDC has revised the period of communicability to "3 days before to 5 days after onset of parotitis" and that urine is no longer recommended for culture. If a patient presents within 72 hours after onset of parotitis, collect a buccal sample for viral isolation and a serum sample for IgM and IgG testing. **GI Illness-** Please collect stool specimens from your patients presenting with significant gastrointestinal illness. The health department is investigating E. coli cases unrelated to the recent spinach outbreak and has already had a report of an outbreak in a long-term care facility suspected to be caused by norovirus. Identifying the pathogen involved in community outbreaks helps determine appropriate infection control measures. **Pandemic/Avian Flu Update –Human Cases-** New cases were reported in Indonesia (4) and Egypt (1) this past month, bringing the total number of human H5N1 cases for 2006 to 109, of which 73 were fatal. On 10/17/06, CDC issued "Interim Guidance on Planning for the Use of Surgical Masks and Respirators in Health Care Settings during an Influenza Pandemic". See <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/maskguidancehc.html> for details. **Community MRSA** – MRSA in the community setting continues to be a significant issue in local medical practice. CDC recently released a summary of meetings held by MRSA experts entitled, "Strategies for Clinical Management of MRSA in the Community." The full report is available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/CAMRSA\\_ExpMtgStrategies.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/CAMRSA_ExpMtgStrategies.pdf).

On the web at: [www.publichealthbytes.org](http://www.publichealthbytes.org)



**Emergency Preparedness: Operation HEALTH-** Henrico County will test its emergency plan to deliver vaccine to the general population in a centralized, high through-put manner on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon. This drill, named Operation HEALTH, will include administering up to 1400 doses of the 2006-2007 seasonal influenza vaccine over a 4-hour period at 2 separate locations – Fairfield Middle School and Dumbarton Elementary School. Our plan includes a test of off-site parking and busing of vaccinees to the dispensing sites. Participants will be able to receive the vaccine free of charge during this exercise and will be able to choose receipt of either Fluvarix® inactivated virus vaccine (licensed for adults 18 years of age or older) or FluMist® nasal spray vaccine containing live, attenuated influenza virus (LAIV), and licensed for healthy children and adults ages 5–49. Participants must pre-register for a reservation and can do so online at [www.henricoflu.com](http://www.henricoflu.com), or by phone at 501-7219 starting 8:30 am, Monday October 30th. Additional information about the drill is also available on the website. Community participation is critical to ensure an adequate test of the plan so please help us spread the word!

**Environmental Health: Rapid lead screening test available** - FDA recently approved a rapid lead screening test, "LeadCare II Blood Lead Test System," as a CLIA waived test. The test provides results from a finger stick or venous sample within 3 minutes. Additional detail is available at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/oivd/leadtest.html>. Be advised that blood lead values above 10 milligrams per deciliter need to be confirmed with another laboratory method.

**Prevention Update: Halloween Safety-** The Consumer Product Safety Commission has advice for parents to ensure a safe and fun Halloween. You can refer parents to the following website for costume, decoration and treat advice:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07012.html>

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